

A²

differential pressure to force the blank into contact with the mold (i.e. pressure or a combination of pressure and vacuum). The hot plastic blank 52 is pulled in contact and held against the surface of the mold 58. The plastic cools to form the mat 73 shown in Fig. 6. Then, the mats 73 are removed from the mold. If necessary, the outer periphery of the mats may be trimmed to confirm the mat to the shape of the vehicle surface to be covered.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 6 and ending at page 9, line 10

with the following rewritten paragraph:

A³

-- In the preferred embodiment, the mat 73 has a relatively flat base 74 and a number of upstanding sidewalls 76 shaped by the upstanding form 66 and against ledge 68. As mentioned before, this shape is merely illustrative of a typical driver or passenger side floor board, and a number of differently shaped mats, such as cargo liners, may be formed according to this inventive process.--

In the Claims

Please delete claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

A⁴
Sub C¹⁷

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein least one vacuum aperture is formed in said tool, and wherein said sheet is drawn toward said tool by applying vacuum pressure through said vacuum aperture.

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is requested. The specification has been amended for the purpose of clarity and not for reasons related to patentability. In addition, claim 4 has been amended and claim 21 has been deleted. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.